

State of Utah Department of Commerce

Division of Consumer Protection

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MEDIA ALERT

<u>Consumer Protection Issues Alert on U.S. Census Bureau Community Survey</u> (For immediate release)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – The Division of Consumer Protection is alerting Utah citizens that the U.S. Census Bureau is mailing out surveys to a sampling of the United States population titled the "American Community Survey" to gather information. The Division has received calls from concerned citizens who wondered whether the letters they received in the mail were scams because they asked for income information. The U.S. Census Bureau invites any Utah citizen who has received a mailer or phone call and wants to make sure it is legitimate to contact their Denver regional office at 1-800-852-6159. Citizens can also find out more information on the "American Community Survey" by logging on the U.S. Census Bureau website at: www.census.gov/acs

"We encourage consumers to take that extra step to verify requests for personal information because scam artists are always looking for new ways to take advantage of the public," said Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Department of Commerce.

For more information on how to protect yourself from consumer scams and fraud, log on to www.consumerprotection.utah.gov. If you have a question about a possible scam or consumer complaint, contact the Division of Consumer Protection at (801) 530-6601.

For more information contact: **Jennifer Bolton**Public Information Officer
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